

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein said at least divalent cation is selected from  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the molar ratio of carboxyl groups of the monomers B to equivalents of the metal cation in the composition is in the range from 10:1 to 1:10.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the monomer A is selected from the  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl esters of acrylic acid, the  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl esters of methacrylic acid, and vinylaromatic compounds.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the monomer B is selected from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the first coating composition, based on its overall weight, contains from 10 to 50% by weight of said at least one addition polymer P.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the first coating composition per 100 parts by weight of addition polymer P contains from 5 to

300 parts by weight of at least one inorganic filler, at least one pigment, or a mixture of at least one inorganic filler and at least one pigment as component iii).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the metal component is a shaped part made of sheet metal.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the further coating composition is applied to the surface provided with the basecoat before the basecoat has dried.

Claim 10 (Original): A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein before the basecoat is dried a particulate material having an average particle size of more than 0.1 mm is applied to the wet basecoat.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein said at least one further coating composition comprises as binder at least one aqueous dispersion of an addition polymer P'.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the addition polymer P' has a glass transition temperature in the range from 10°C to 80°C.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the first aqueous composition is applied in an amount of from 50 to 500 g/m<sup>2</sup>, calculated as nonvolatile constituents of the composition.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16, wherein the first aqueous composition comprises:

- i) from 20 to 90% by weight of addition polymer P,
- ii) from 0.1 to 5% by weight of metal ions,
- iii) from 2 to 25% by weight of at least one pigment and/or from 10 to 60% by weight of at least one filler, the total amount of pigment + filler not exceeding an overall amount of 75% by weight, and
- iv) from 0.1 to 20% by weight, of customary auxiliaries.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A coated metal component obtained by a method as claimed in claim [[1]] 16.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method of coating metal components by applying a first coating composition to a surface of the component as to provide a basecoat and then applying at least one further coating composition to the surface provided with the basecoat, which comprises selecting the first coating composition from aqueous compositions, which comprise:

- i) at least one aqueous polymer dispersion comprising at least one addition polymer P which has a glass transition temperature below 0°C and contains in copolymerized form
  - from 80 to 99.5% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated, hydrophobic monomer A,
  - from 0.5 to 10% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer B selected from monocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acid and their anhydrides, and if desired

- from 0 to 10% by weight of one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers C, different than the monomers A and B, the weight fractions of the monomers A, B and C adding up to 100% by weight,  
and which addition polymer P is prepared in the presence of at least one anionic emulsifier;
- ii) at least one water-soluble oxide, hydroxide, salt or complex salt of an at least divalent metal cation.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the addition polymer P' has a glass transition temperature in the range from 20°C to 60°C.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the basecoat contains at least 5% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the basecoat contains at least 10% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the basecoat contains at least 15% by weight of water, based on the dry basecoat, before the further coating composition is applied.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been canceled. The remaining claims have been amended to depend, or ultimately depend, on Claim 16.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 2-20 will be pending in the application.